

How to Properly Use Parenthetical Citations to avoid Plagiarism

Definition: A **parenthetical citation** is a note placed in parentheses that specifies the source of information within a paper.

Parenthetical = it's in parentheses

Citation = a short note recognizing a source of information

****Your parenthetical citations will correspond with the entries on your Works Cited page.**

When to cite for this assignment: whenever you use someone else's direct words (any direct quotes).

Please note that as you learn more and progress in your writing skills, you will be taught that it's necessary to provide citation every time someone else's ideas are used, even if you don't use their exact words.

What to include: In most cases, you will cite the author's last name and the page number of the source.

What you need to do:

1. Begin with a direct quote copied exactly as it appears in the original text.
2. Determine how you will cite the source:
 - Do you want to introduce the author first?
 - Or do you want to use a parenthetical citation to document both the author and the page number?
3. Format correctly:
 - Note that after the end quotation mark for a direct quote, there is no punctuation. The period comes after the parenthetical citation.
 - Also note that there is no punctuation between the author's last name and the page number:
 - Example: "Air pollution is a severe social issue" (Smith 42).

Guidelines & Examples

Author and page number at end: (Example)

"The Empire State Building is a miracle in the sky" (Smith 17).

Author first introduced, page number at end: (Example)

James Smith believes "The Empire State Building is a miracle in the sky" (17).

No page number provided, author and title of book first introduced: (Example)

James Smith stated in his article titled "Tall Buildings" that "The Empire State Building is a miracle in the sky."

Source w/out an author (title used), page number at end: (Example)

"The Empire State Building is a miracle in the sky" ("Tall Buildings" 17).

Source no author (title used), no page number: (Example)

"The Empire State Building is a miracle in the sky" ("Tall Buildings").

Source with more than one author introduced first: (Example)

Smith, Yang, and Moore argue "The Empire State Building is a miracle in the sky" (17).

Source with more than one author (but less than three authors) at end: (Example)

"The Empire State Building is a miracle in the sky" (Smith, Yang, and Moore 17).

Source with more than three authors listed at end: (Example)

"The Empire State Building is a miracle in the sky" (Smith, et al 17).

Source with more than three authors introduced first: (Example)

Smith et al. state "The city of lights is an amazing site" (17).

How to Properly Use Parenthetical Citations to avoid Plagiarism

Continued (page 2)

Tips & Tricks:

- ★ Always mention the author's name! (unless there is no author)
- ★ If your source has two or three authors, mention both/all three in your citation.
- ★ If your source has more than three authors, use the first last name given and then type "et al." to indicate that there's more.
- ★ If your source does not have an author, cite the title of the work instead.
- ★ If your source does not have page #s, skip them.
 - DO NOT USE THE "PRINTED PAGE" NUMBERS AS THE PAGE NUMBERS FOR YOUR SOURCE.
- ★ Book titles are underlined (when handwritten) but *ITALICIZED* (when typed)!!!
- ★ Websites and magazine article titles are placed in "quotation marks."

Use Appositives:

Nobody likes "Name-Droppers"—so use appositives!

- Don't "name drop" and assume your readers are going to know who you're talking about.
- If you're going to use an author's name in your writing (before the citation), use an **appositive** to inform your readers who this name belongs to, revealing his/her credibility.
Reminder: An **appositive** is a noun or noun phrase that is separated by commas, and provides additional information about the noun previously mentioned.

For example:

James Smith states, "The Empire State Building is at least 2,000 feet tall" (17).

Your readers might wonder, "Who's James Smith and how trustworthy is he, really? Why should I care what he says? Can I trust that he knows what he's talking about and that that's a real fact?" Well, consider the following options, and you be the judge. Which quote do you think would make your research paper be more credible? Would the use of either one make a difference to your readers?

1) "James Smith says that the Empire State Building is at least 2,000 feet tall."

vs.

2) "James Smith, a tourist from Washington D.C. who was visiting New York for the first time, says that the Empire State Building is at least 2,000 feet tall."

vs.

3) "James Smith, one of the two designers behind the architectural firm who designed the Empire State Building, says that the building is 1,454 feet tall."

Hopefully, you acknowledge that the third sentence is the best. It uses an appositive to provide necessary explanatory information about the name that was stated (James Smith) and it shows that he is a credible and trustworthy source.

